## REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Applicant notes that a Change of Correspondence Address form is being filed concurrently herewith, and requests that the Office update its records accordingly. Applicant also notes that the Attorney Docket number for the present application has changed, as indicated above, and kindly requests that the Office amend its records to indicate same.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to correct several typographical errors, and to provide the expanded version of several acronyms. The specification is also amended at paragraph [0046] replacing the reference numeral 26 with reference numeral 28 consistent with the amendment made to Figure 3 as will be explained below.

No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to correct a grammatical error and to add further detail regarding the use of the method recited. The formatting of claim 1 is also amended.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended replacing "directory" with "database" for antecedence.

Claim 7 is amended in a manner similar to claim 1.

Claim 10 is amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors, and to replace "directory" with "database" consistent with claim 1.

Claim 13 is amended replacing "directory" with "database" consistent with the amendments made to claim 10.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended removing the expressions "bit" and "but" respectively. Claim 18 is also amended replacing "directory" with "database" consistent with the amendments made to claim 10.

No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

Formal drawings containing Figures 1-7 are submitted herewith as requested by the

Examiner. Applicant notes that Figures 4-7 are now included in a single drawing sheet.

Accordingly, Figures 1-7 are now presented on three (3) drawing sheets.

Figure 3 is amended to replace reference numeral "26" with new reference numeral "28".

As noted above, the specification is amended to conform with such amendment.

No new matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

## Objections to the Drawings

New corrected drawings were requested. As indicated above, new formal drawings are submitted herewith that are believed to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

## Objections to the Specification

As indicated above, the numeral "26" in paragraph [0046] (which can be found on page 8, line 15) is replaced by numeral "28". The numeral "26" shown in Figure 3 is also amended for consistency.

## Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-3 and 17-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

In claims 2 and 3, "said directory" is replaced with "said database". The database has been previously introduced, therefore, claims 2-3 are submitted to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In claim 17, "said bit string" is replaced by "said string", and in claim 18, "said but string" is replaced by "said string". The expression "string" is previously introduced as indicated by the Examiner, therefore, claims 17-18 are submitted to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

## Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner believes that the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not necessarily tied to an article of manufacture which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result. Applicant respectfully

traverses the Examiner's rejections as follows.

According to section 2106 (IV)(B)(2)(b), MPEP, a claim that requires one or more acts to be performed defines a process. Moreover, to be statutory, a claimed computer-related process must either: (A) result in a physical transformation outside the computer for which a practical application in the technological arts is either disclosed in the specification or would have been known to a skilled artisan or (B) be limited to a practical application within the technological arts.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Claim 1 is amended as indicated above, and reads as follows.

> 1. A method of allocating an address to a certificate to enable the storage of said certificate in an addressable database for subsequent retrieval and use in a cryptographic system, said method comprising the steps of:
> generating a string for use as a certificate locator, said string being generated from information contained in a request for said certificate; and
> utilizing said string to obtain said address for retrieving a corresponding certificate from said database.

Claim 1 clearly requires one or more acts to be performed and thus defines a process. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 satisfies both requirement (A) and (B) and as such, claim 1 constitutes a statutory process claim.

Regarding requirement (A), the method recited in claim 1 involves a step of generating a string for use as a certificate locator, and a step of utilizing the string to obtain the address of a particular certificate. Therefore, the method includes both a computation and a practical use of the computed value. Specifically, the method enables the storage and subsequent retrieval of certificates that can be used in a cryptographic system. Since the method recites a step of utilizing the generated string for obtaining the address of a particular certificate, the method of claim 1 is believed to satisfy requirement (A) and is therefore believed to constitute statutory subject matter for at least that reason.

Regarding requirement (B), the method of claim 1 is directed to allocating addresses to certificates for use in cryptographic systems. The method enables certificates to be located and later retrieved from a database, based on a certificate locator. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to

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have a practical application, for example, in its use in cryptographic systems. The method defines a set of steps that enable the allocation, storage, and subsequent retrieval of a particular certificate. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 also satisfies requirement (B) and thus constitutes statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to define a set of steps that result in a practical application, and execution of the method produces a tangible result, namely the allocation of an address to a certificate for storage and later retrieval of the certificate. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to satisfy requirements (A) and (B) set forth in MPEP 2106 (IV)(B)(2)(b), and as such constitutes statutory subject matter and complies with 35 U.S.C §101.

### Claim 7

Claim 7 is directed to a method for identifying to a recipient, an address of a certificate of a signed message in a data communication system. The method includes the steps of preparing a set of information for a certificate request, generating a string from the set of information to use as a certificate locator to enable a corresponding certificate to be located in a database, and forwarding the string to the recipient to indicate the location of the certificate for subsequent retrieval.

Claim 7 requires one or more acts to be performed, and thus defines a process. The method clearly sets forth a set of steps including the generation of a string, and the use of this string for storage and later retrieval of a particular certificate. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 7 satisfies requirement (A). Similar to claim 1, claim 7 is limited to practical application within the technological arts since it pertains specifically to allocating, storing, and retrieval of certificates that are used in cryptographic systems. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 7 also satisfies requirement (B).

Accordingly, claim 7 is believed to define a set of steps having practical application producing a tangible result. Therefore, claim 7 is believed to satisfy both requirements (A) and (B) set forth in MPEP 2106 (IV)(B)(2)(b), and as such constitutes statutory subject matter and complies with 35 U.S.C §101.

### Claim 10

Claim 10 is directed to a method for maintaining certificates in a public key infrastructure, that in part, includes the generation of a string from information contained in certificate requests, and the use of this string for locating a particular certificate in a database to

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permit retrieval of the certificate.

Therefore, for reasons similar to claims 1 and 7, claim 10 is also believed to satisfy requirements (A) and (B) set forth in MPEP 2106 (IV)(B)(2)(b), and as such constitutes statutory subject matter and complies with 35 U.S.C § 101.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 constitute statutory subject matter and therefore comply with 35 U.S.C § 101.

### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,903,882 to Asay et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections as follows.

#### Claims 1-6

Claim 1, in part, requires the generation of a string for use as a certificate locator, the string being generated from information contained in a request for the certificate. The Examiner relies on column 18, lines 12-20 of Asay for teaching this step. Applicant respectfully disagrees. At lines 12-20 of column 18, Asay discusses a relying party composing a request for a secondary certificate and sending the request to a server, wherein the request has an identifier containing the subscriber's public key. This passage does not mention or even allude to the generation of a string, let alone generating a string from information in the certificate request. Asay merely teaches composing a request, and indicates that the primary certificate has an identifier. In any case, Asay does not teach generating such an identifier, but merely mentions its existence. Therefore, Asay clearly does not teach generating a string for use as a certificate locator as required by claim 1. For at least that reason, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Asay.

The Examiner then admits that Asay does not explicitly disclose utilizing the string to obtain the address but believes that column 18, lines 21-32 provides motivation to modify the teachings of Asay to do so. Applicant believes that notwithstanding the above, the teachings of Asay simply do not provide such motivation.

Firstly, Asay does not teach generating a string from information in a certificate request, but merely teaches the generation of the request and indicates the presence of an identifier. The identifier is said to contain a public key of the subscriber. Therefore, the identifier taught by Asay is used for containing information pertaining to a subscriber, and for acting as a certificate

locator. Accordingly, there is no motivation in Asay to divert from what is explicitly taught, and in fact, Asay does not even suggest the generation of a string, let alone the use thereof as recited in claim 1.

Secondly, column 18, lines 21-32 teaches a listing of a reliance server, which may contain addresses. This does not teach utilizing a string to obtain the address of a certificate. Although Asay does teach an identifier of the primary certificate, he also indicates that the identifier contains the subscriber's public key. Therefore, the identifier is not a uniquely generated string based on information in the request (as required by claim 1), but merely contains information pertaining to the subscriber, namely its public key. The identifier used in Asay is not a certificate locator, but is part of the request itself. This is fundamentally different than a string that is generated using information in a certificate request (as recited in claim 1).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Asay does not teach generating a string from information in a certificate request and using the string for obtaining the address of a certificate as required by claim 1, and does not provide any motivation to modify his teachings. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to clearly and patentably distinguish over Asay. Claims 2-6 in their dependencies on claim 1 are also believed to distinguish over Asay.

### Claims 7-9

In rejecting claim 7, the Examiner relies on column 18, lines 19-20 of Asay, specifically for teaching the generation of a string from information included in a certificate request. As discussed above, Asay does not teach such a step, but teaches an identifier that is part of a request itself. Therefore, arguments with respect to claim 1, equally apply to claim 7.

Accordingly, Asay does not teach the steps recited in claim 7, in particular the generation of a string from information in a certificate request, and the use of the string as a certificate location. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation in Asay to modify the teachings to read on claim 7. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 7 clearly and patentably distinguishes over Asay. Claims 8 and 9, in their dependencies on claim 7 are also believed to distinguish over Asay.

### Claims 10-18

Claim 10 also requires, in part, the generating of a string from information of a certificate request, and the use of the string as a certificate locator. Therefore, arguments with respect to claim 1, equally apply to claim 10.
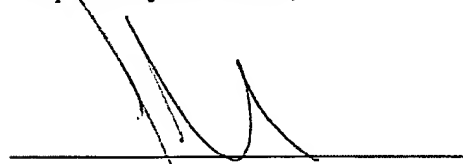
Accordingly, Asay does not teach the steps recited in claim 10, in particular the generation of a string from information in a certificate request, and the use of the string as a certificate location. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation in Asay to modify the teachings to read on claim 10. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 10 clearly and patentably distinguishes over Asay. Claims 11-18, in their dependencies on claim 10 are also believed to distinguish over Asay.

## Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 constitute statutory subject matter, comply with 35 U.S.C. §101, §103 and §112, clearly and patentably distinguish over Asay, and as such are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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## Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the drawing sheets currently on file with the three (3) replacement drawing sheets submitted herewith.